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Population Survey and School Census
Chapel Hill, 1948

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POPULATION SURVEY AND SCHOOL CENSUS
of the
CHAPEL HILL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DISTRICT

Chapel Hill, N. C. - Spring, 1948

SUMMARY REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Chapel Hill community has completed its first amateur census and the results are now tabulated, ready for study and use. The project was undertaken by the Junior Service League of Chapel Hill, a civic organization of young women with an open membership and work requirement. It was conducted under the supervision of the Planning Department of the University of North Carolina, of which John A. Parker is the head.

The proposal was approved by the Board of Aldermen of Chapel Hill, the Chapel Hill School Board, the Superintendent of Orange County Schools, the University of North Carolina, the Chapel Hill Planning Board, the Parent-Teachers Association, and the Chapel Hill Community Council. We have worked also in cooperation with the State Education Commission, who have observed our experiment as a possible model for further surveys in the state.

Origin of the Idea

The idea grew out of a study of the educational situation in the Chapel Hill area which the Junior Service League made in October and November, 1947. Plans to make a school census were evolved very slowly, and only after it was found that the Planning Department of the University could offer a graduate student experienced in such matters, as supervisor was the decision actually made to proceed. Shortly thereafter we invited representatives of the approving agencies to comprise an Advisory Committee to guide and assist the project. This Committee elected our Mayor, Robert W. Madry, as its chairman.

Mapping and Plans

Careful maps of the Chapel Hill School Attendance District, including approximately the lower third of Orange County, were made by Mr. Eric Hill, the graduate student supervisor. These maps were designed to show every house in the census area. A card was set up, i.e., the heading filled out, for every house before the census began. The mechanics of the interviewing were arranged by the Census Committee of the Junior Service League with the advice of the Planning Department. The area to be covered was divided into four districts: District I includes the Chapel Hill corporate limits; District II, the Carrboro corporate limits; District III, the Chapel Hill suburbs, known as the "planning area"; and District IV, the county areas beyond District III from which children come to the Chapel Hill High School. These areas were divided into sections and captains, about forty-five in number, were obtained. They in turn selected their own helpers. We estimate that about three hundred people were working in the field.

Procedure

After one training meeting at the Town Hall on April 6, where the cards, maps, and instructions were distributed and explanations made, the canvassing was done mainly on Monday and Tuesday, April 12 and 13. During the week of April 12 the captains turned in the completed cards at the Town Hall. These were then carried to the Statistical Laboratory of the Institute for Research in Social Science, located in the Alumni Building. Under the direction of Dr. Daniel O. Price of the Institute's staff, the enormous job of tallying the basic information on the cards was carried on. This work was done by the members of the Junior Service League and the faculties of both white and Negro schools in Chapel Hill. It involved checking every card against its corresponding house number on the master map, in addition to the other cross-checking and recording of various items.

It became apparent during the course of the first round of tallying that a second round of work would have to be done to obtain the desired school information in detail. So we constructed a second tally sheet and combed the cards again. This process of tallying has gone on over a period of several weeks and many persons, especially the members of the Junior Service League, have spent many hours in a conscientious and careful effort to set down the available information clearly and accurately. The results are evident in the attached tables.

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Expenses

The expenses of the survey and census have been borne for the most part by the Junior Service League. Contributions of mimeographing services and paper have come from the schools and the University; the Planning Department is helping to pay for the mimeographing of this summary report, in addition to furnishing a number of reproductions of the master maps. In the beginning the Service League voted to spend up to seventy-five dollars on the project, with more funds available if necessary and requested by the Census Committee of the League.

The cards cost \$54 for 6000; we had about 2000 too many, but our system of distribution and simultaneous canvassing made an over-supply unavoidable. Cost of envelopes will be about \$5; additional maps will run between \$10 and \$15; small miscellaneous items will be about \$5. In addition to these items, the Junior Service League has voted to purchase metal drawer files in which to store the cards; these will cost between \$35 and \$40. The total of these expenses is approximately \$113. As a token of our appreciation the League is sending Mr. Hill a check for fifty dollars; this could not begin to indicate the value of his services.

Interpretation of the Results

Interpretation of the information represented in the accompanying tables would be impossible in the time, space, and energy allotted to this report. The Census Committee is on the whole pleased with the job we have all been able to do together, being at the same time appalled at the enormity of the project we undertook. Mistakes have been made, many of which we are quite aware of and may be able to make recompense for during the summer. Two districts, one in the county which was the only one undertaken by school children, and one in Carrboro need to be rechecked.

Comparison with 1940 Census

The Census Committee and others responsible for planning and conducting the survey and census have at various stages checked the forms and methods of the 1940 U. S. Census. Early in the arrangements we decided that the nature of our study, *i. e.*, its concern with the school attendance district which does not conform in boundaries to any U. S. Census area, indicated geographical planning different from the routine areas of Chapel Hill city limits, Carrboro city limits, and the Chapel Hill township. Therefore we have figures comparable to the 1940 Census only on the areas within the corporate limits of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

The current census indicates the town population of Chapel Hill, exclusive of students and student families, to be 3598. The 1940 Census gives 3654 as the population of Chapel Hill. At first glance it would seem that the town is smaller than it was eight years ago, an obviously ridiculous conclusion. Faced with this, the statisticians dug into the instructions given the 1940 U. S. Census enumerators and found that married graduate students, who had bona fide households in Chapel Hill, were permitted to be counted as Chapel Hill residents. In that year it was to the advantage of students to be residents of North Carolina because of the tuition differential. With these two factors contributing to the inclusion of the graduate students and their families, we went over the cards again and noted the number of such persons in our category of "student families".

This number is 855. Therefore the total comparable population of Chapel Hill in 1948 is 4453, which represents an increase of 799 over the 1940 Census figure of 3654. The number of persons reported in Carrboro during the current census was 1432. The 1940 figure was 1455.

School Enrollment

The school census figures were compiled carefully and then checked against the active enrollment on May 7, 1948 as furnished by Superintendent C. W. Davis. This comparison follows:

	Current Enrollment	-- Probable Enrollment, 1948-49 --		
		To be here	Not to be here	Net
Chapel Hill High School	295	287	16	271
Chapel Hill Elementary School	432	446	31	415
O. C. T. S. - High School	158	129	2	127
O. C. T. S. - Elementary	433	356	6	350

In each case the potential enrollment is less than the active enrollment, although in the white schools the discrepancy is slight. This difference is in large part accounted for by the cards missing in District IV, Section 1 where we have no report on 45 houses. The Chapel Hill Elementary School will lose eight students in June, who are themselves children of University students soon to leave town. The larger and more serious differences in the figures for Negro children derive in great part from the tabulation in the Negro district of Carrboro, where we have known from the beginning our set-up for obtaining the information was inadequate. For good reasons of community procedure we have not rushed in to re-check the area, but hope to do so this summer.

Coverage

Mr. Hill has estimated the coverage on all districts except the county to be 97.5%. Taking into account the houses in the county which are listed in the "no report" column (there are 68 of these, out of 803 county houses), the coverage for District IV is itself 91.6%. These percentages do not represent accuracy; we wish that had been possible. By this we mean that birth dates of children, number of children, and perhaps some basic population data could have been in error on some of the cards.

Appreciation

Thanks are due so many persons that it would be impossible to list them all, but the Junior Service League is especially grateful to Mr. Louis Graves for his invaluable help in selling the idea to the public and giving the project his full support. We are also most appreciative of the fine service performed by Mr. Madry, not only as chairman of our Advisory Committee, but in his capacity as director of the University News Bureau as well.

We are indebted to our school superintendents, Mr. C. W. Davis of the Chapel Hill Schools and Mr. G. T. Proffitt of the Orange County Schools, for their continuing advice and help. Mr. C. A. McDouglo, Principal of the Orange County Training School, has given excellent support to the project. We are sure we could never have obtained the information on Carrboro without the splendid direction and work of Mr. R. B. Studebaker, former mayor of Carrboro and a public-spirited citizen.

Any appraisal of the value of the survey and census reveals immediately the excellent supervision given to the whole undertaking by Mr. John A. Parker, head of the University Planning Department. His vision and sympathy, patience and understanding, together with the experience and intelligence which he brought to bear upon the project day by day, have been indispensable to the group at work on the census. The Chapel Hill community will long benefit from his fine performance.

Dr. Gordon W. Blackwell and the Institute for Research in Social Science have contributed ideas and support at many points and their interest in the whole matter has been most gratifying to the amateurs who have been involved in the project. Mr. Samuel T. Emory, Chairman of the Chapel Hill School Board, has counselled us and encouraged us throughout the enterprise.

The Junior Service League also wishes to thank Chancellor Robert B. House for his practical help in assembling our supplies and for his endorsement of our venture in community self-consciousness.

Respectfully submitted,

Chapel Hill, N. C.
May 28, 1948

Mrs. Walter Spearman, Chairman of the Census Committee
Junior Service League

Mrs. Marvin R. Evans, President, Junior Service League

The Advisory Committee:

Robert W. Madry, Chairman
Samuel T. Emory
C. W. Davis
G. T. Proffitt
C. A. McDouglo
John A. Parker
Gordon W. Blackwell
Daniel O. Price
Eric Hill
Louis Graves

Members of the Census Committee of the League:

Mrs. Walter Spearman, Chairman
Mrs. M. M. Timmons
Mrs. W. D. Perry
Mrs. Carl M. Smith
Mrs. H. D. Brandis
Mrs. R. L. McKee

James E. Wadsworth - Collier Cobb, Jr., Mrs. Edith P. Brocker, W. H. Plemmons

POPULATION SURVEY of the CHAPEL HILL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DISTRICT --- Spring, 1948

Conducted by the Junior Service League under the supervision of the Planning Department of the University of North Carolina and approved by the Board of Aldermen of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill School Board, Superintendent of Orange County Schools, the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Planning Board, Parent-Teachers Association, and the Chapel Hill Community Council.

District	HOUSES			FAMILIES			NUMBER OF PERSONS				Persons 18 and over			Persons under 18			Motor Vehicles
	Known Houses	Trailers	No Report	Total	Student*	Other	Total	In Student* Families	In Other Families	Total	In Student Families	In Other Families	Total	In Student Families	In Other Families		
I Chapel Hill (City limits) White Negro	1015	125	23	1451	402	1049 747 302	9825	6227**	3598 2366 1232	8770	6112	2658 1839 819	1055	115	940 527 413	1665 Off campus: 1155 On campus: 510	
II Carrboro (City limits) White Negro	346	4	18	373	26	347 280 67	1432	98	1334 1017 317	999	79	920 700 220	433	19	414 317 97	193	
III Chapel Hill (Suburbs) White Negro	955	17	20	992	472	520 397 123	3460	1420	2040 1476 564	2432	1097	1335 1005 330	1029	324	705 472 233	804	
IV County Areas White Negro	803	1	68	829	13	816 631 185	2755	55	2700 1968 732	1814	46	1768 1343 425	941	9	932 625 307	557	
TOTAL for Survey Area White Negro	3019	147	129	3645	913	2732 2055 677	17,472	7800	9672 6827 2845	14,015	7334	6681 4887 1794	3458	467	2991 1941 1050	3219	

* -- Families and persons in those were classified "student" when the head of the household was a student.

** -- Persons in "Student Families": students on campus: 3691; in fraternity and sorority houses: 565; in student households: 855; student roomers: 1116; total: 6227.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA ON SCHOOLS

In taking the school census we attempted to learn how many children would not be in school at any public school in the Chapel Hill School Attendance District during 1948-49. Several reasons place children in this category: attendance at a private school, physical or mental illness or defect, or anticipated moving of the family out of the School Attendance District. A very few children of school age gave indication that they expected to work rather than attend school.

The total number of children not to be in school for the above reasons may be divided as follows:

Chapel Hill High School	-- 16	O. C. T. S. (High School)	-- 2
Chapel Hill Elementary School	-- 31	O. C. T. S. (Elementary School)	-- 6

Of the 31 indicated for the Chapel Hill Elementary School, 8 are children of students who expect to be moving away before next fall.

An important factor in school planning is the number of children who have students as parents. A summary of these, by years for the pre-school group and by grades for the elementary and high school, follows:

'54	-- 69	1st grade	-- 9
'53	-- 156	2nd grade	-- 5
'52	-- 79	3rd grade	-- 3
'51	-- 40	4th grade	-- 2
'50	-- 42	5th grade	-- 3
'49	-- 31	6th grade	-- 4
		7th grade	-- none
		8th grade	-- 3
		9th grade	-- 2

These figures include children of students in all four census districts (Chapel Hill city limits, Carrboro city limits, Chapel Hill suburbs, and the county areas adjacent). The large majority, of course, are in and immediately around Chapel Hill, including Victory Village.

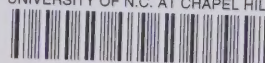
An exhaustive tally of the school data on the census cards has been made and the totals have been compared with current enrollment figures. In addition to the children represented in the attached table on indicated enrollment for 1948-49, there are certain cases on which we have inadequate information for classification purposes. A summary of these children by districts follows:

District I (Chapel Hill City Limits): 1 white female; no age given except "pre-school"
 8 Negro children; no age given
 7 Negro children; indicated but not listed
 1 white male; indicated but not listed

District II (Carrboro): 3 Negro children; ages not given, except "baby"
 4 Negro children; no ages given.
 1 Negro child, now 15; working and not in school.
 2 white children; no age given
 1 male child; no age given
 2 male children; no age given
 1 white female; born 1932; "quit school last year".

District III (Chapel Hill Suburbs)
 1 Negro male, 16, not in school
 3 Negro children, not listed
 1 Negro female, 8, not in school
 2 Negro females, 6, not in school
 1 white male, 16, not in school
 7 Negro children, no ages given
 Following Negro children listed as not in school:
 2 males, age 17
 1 male, age 16
 2 males, age 15
 1 female, age 14

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